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Fall 2014

### SB047-14/15: Supporting the Freshman Wilderness Experience

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**The Associated Students of the University of Montana**  
**Resolution Supporting The Freshman Wilderness Experience**  
**October 22, 2014**  
**SB047-14/15**

**Authored by: Gemma Heimlich-Bowler, ASUM Senator, Rachael Fuson, ASUM Senator**  
**Sponsored by: Danielle Sewell, ASUM Senator;**

Whereas, The Freshman Wilderness Experience (FWE) is a program that is run by Campus Recreation and The Wilderness Institute with the aim to promote peer networks, community learning, and leadership for incoming freshman;

Whereas, This past summer 70 incoming freshman and 20 student leaders spent four days in the mountains and on the rivers of western Montana learning more about the great Montana outdoors as well as becoming more engaged with the University of Montana (UM) community;

Whereas, Of the 70 students who participated, 96% agreed that the FWE allowed them to build interpersonal relationships, 90% agreed that they felt better prepared to be a student at UM and 100% would recommend the FWE to incoming freshman;

Whereas, Continuing this program may be vital to retention at UM, evidenced by a study of a similar program at Sam Houston State University, which indicated that such programs could increase retention rates by about 10%;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) supports the continuation of the Freshman Wilderness Experience;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Steve Thompson, Director of Campus Recreation; Chris Comer, Dean of the College of Humanities and Sciences; Jim Burchfield, Dean of the College of Forestry and Conservation; Teresa Branch, Vice President for Student Affairs; Natalie Dawson, Director of The Wilderness Institute; and Mike Reid, Vice President of Administration and Finance.

Passed by Committee: \_\_\_\_\_, 2014

Passed by ASUM Senate: \_\_\_\_\_, 2014

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Sarah Smith,  
Relations and Affairs Chair

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Sean McQuillan,  
Chair of the Senate